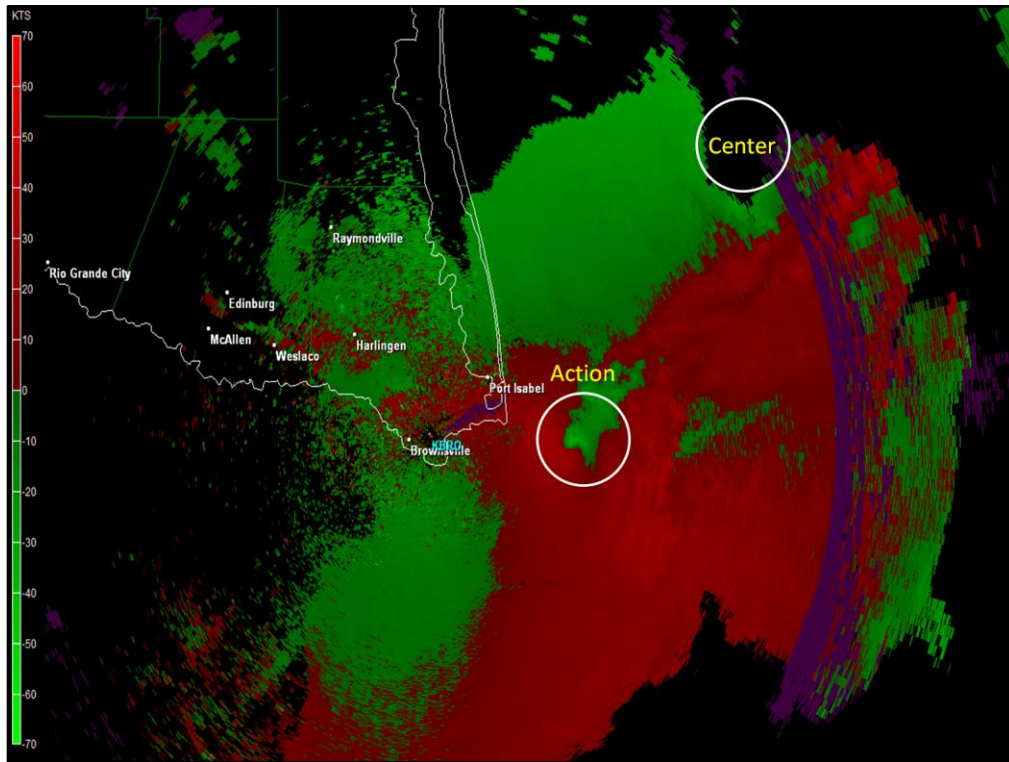


System is producing torrential rains in Cameron County and Willacy County as of 4 PM. Action remains most pronounced in southern semicircle, though there is a pocket of strong storms around the center. Cyclone will be on land around sunset.



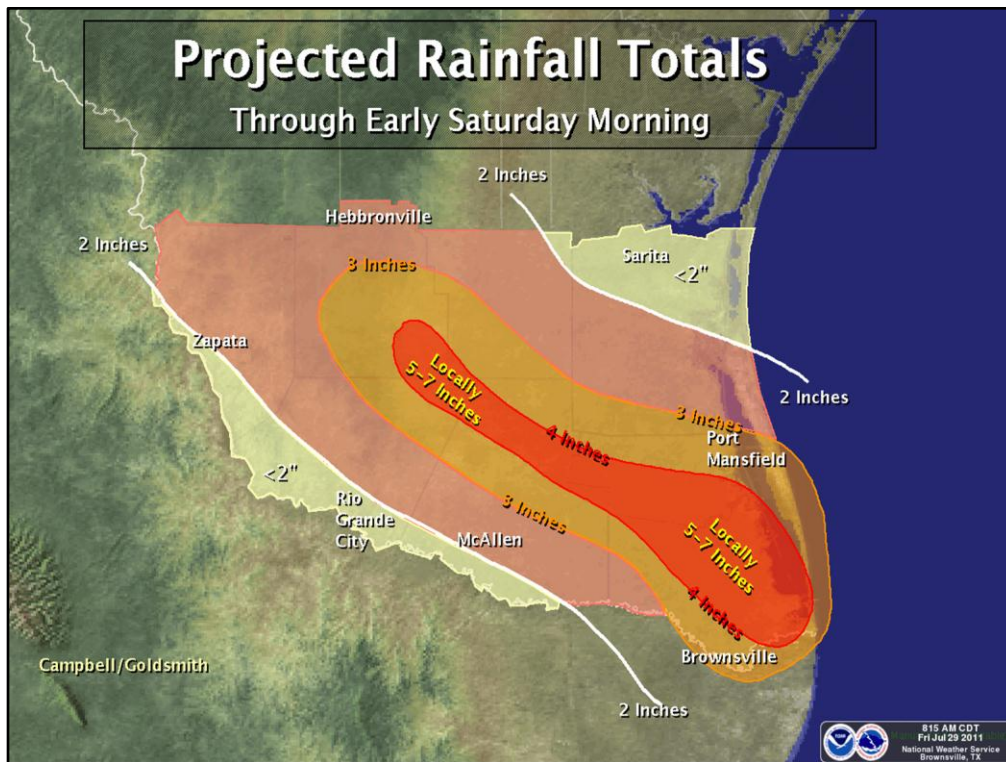
This was a rotating, very strong thunderstorm in the middle of the southern semicircle. It weakened a little moving onto SPI, but still may have produced some dangerous wind gusts. This is very much like Hermine (September 7, 2010) when a 2 hour period of heavy weather passed from Brownsville to Raymondville. Winds may have gusted in excess of 50 mph here, and could continue a bit inland through early to mid evening.

Batten Down the Hatches!

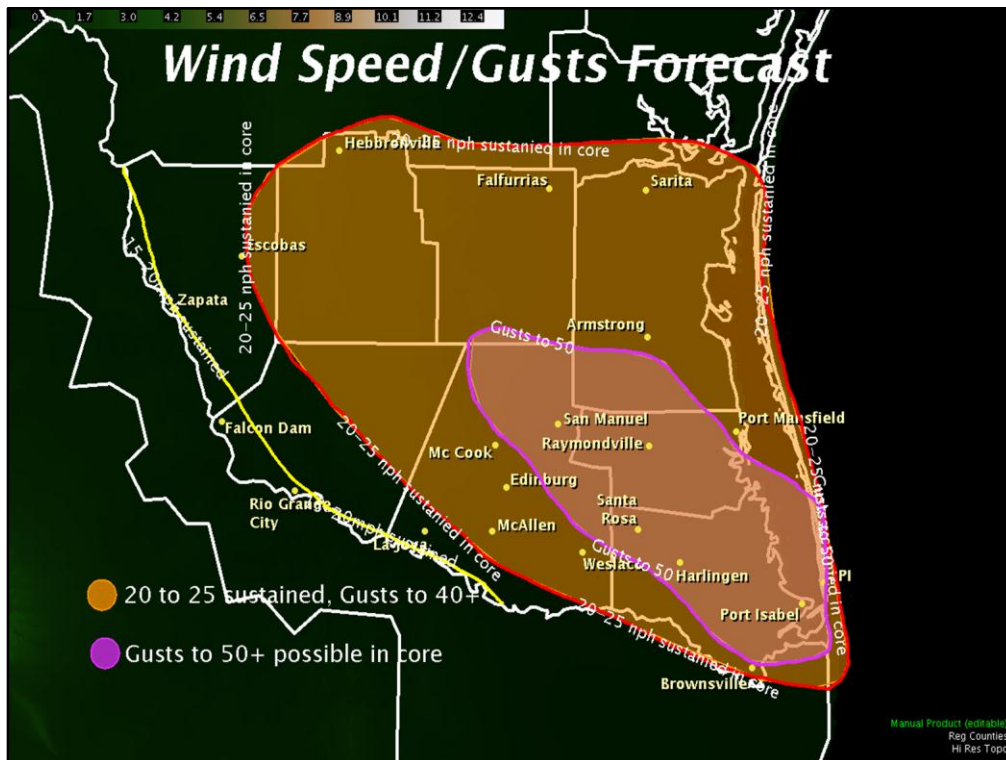
- Torrential Rains Moving into the Lower Valley
- Visibility Near Zero
- Core could drop 3 to 4 inches in an hour; other locations 1 to 2 inches
- Will last for only 1 to 3 hours in any one location
- Lightning, too!
- May see a “flash” flood in poorest draining areas if it holds together
- Gusty winds to 50 mph Cameron/Willacy/Eastern Hidalgo
- Timing: Now until 5/6 PM Cameron, 5 to 7 PM Hidalgo

Tale of the Tape – 4 PM CDT

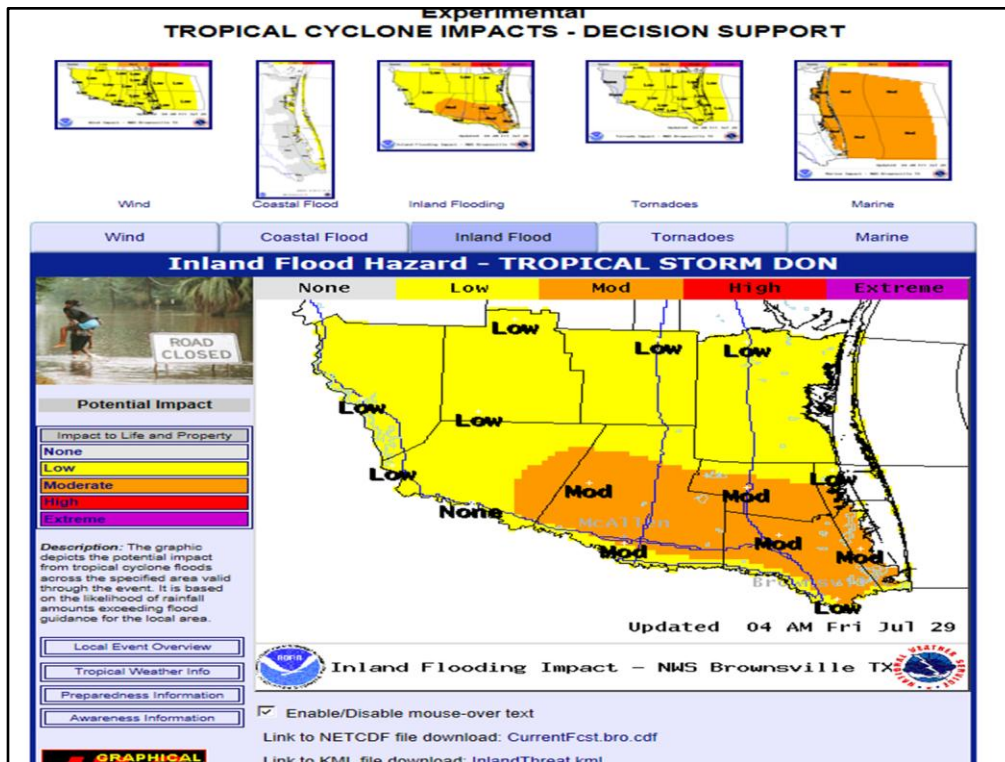
- **Caveat: The “Center” Means Nothing Now. Impacts are King!**
- Location, FWIW: 26.9N -96.2W, or 79 miles northeast of South Padre Island
- Movement: WNW at 16 mph
- Intensity: Small core of 50-55 mph sustained winds. **Largest area of strong wind remains in the south and eastern semi-circle and includes the thunderstorm clusters in gusts heading across the Lower Valley.**



Rain and urban flooding are the key elements with Don. Note the fine line between 2 inches and 4 inches. The southern semicircle may shrink and expand from time to time, and the red area is where activity will be most concentrated. Note: Majority of rains may fall in only 1 to 2 hours before quickly tapering off.



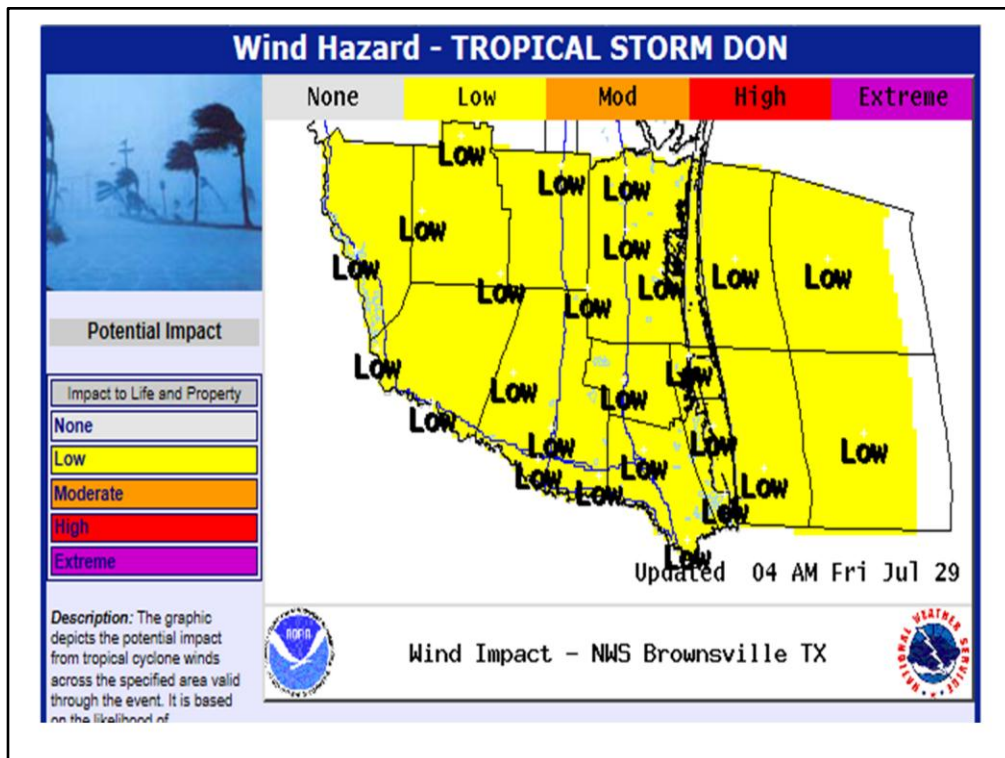
Wind gusts, too, will follow the strongest thunderstorm cells. There is very little time for the center of Don to intensify, thus any core winds above 35 mph at landfall along the Kenedy/Willacy County coast will quickly drop below sustained tropical storm force. Gusts matter, however, and 40+ mph gusts are expected in the orange/brown colored area, with a few 50+ mph gusts in the peach colored area. The strongest cells may push out a 60 mph gust this evening.



We've added moderate impact for inland flooding in an area that combines the highest rain forecast with the highest urban populations. Even 2 to 4 inches of rain in McAllen-Weslaco can be a significant flood threat for some communities, particularly where infrastructure for drainage cannot handle downpours. On the top of the slide, note the moderate impact for marine interests. This will mainly be from a short period of gale force sustained winds with near storm force gusts, along with seas briefly building to or above 8 feet, particularly north of Port Mansfield.

Low	<p>Threat - An elevated threat to life and property; the likelihood for higher rain totals to approach flash flood guidance.</p> <p>Minimum Action - Prepare for damage consistent with very minor inland flooding.</p> <p>Potential Impact - Residents can expect nuisance flooding of roads with poor drainage. Ponding will occur elsewhere. Known intersections with very poor drainage may have water levels of 1 to 2 feet. Other poor drainage areas will have water rises up to 1 foot. Urban Flood Advisories may be needed.</p>
Moderate	<p>Threat - A significant threat to life and property; the likelihood for higher rain totals to exceed flash flood guidance.</p> <p>Minimum Action - Prepare for damage consistent with minor to moderate inland flooding.</p> <p>Potential Impact - Residents can expect widespread flooding, especially in poor drainage locations. In these areas, minor to moderate property damage is expected, and several main thoroughfares may be closed. Known intersections with very poor drainage may have water levels up to 2 to 4 feet. Other poor drainage areas may have water rises up to 2 feet. Levels will rise up to 1 foot elsewhere.</p> <p>Most small streams and arroyos will approach, or possibly exceed, bank full.</p>

This slide shows what Low and Moderate means, for Inland Flood Impact.



Potential wind impact has been raised to “Low” for all areas. This matches closely with the tropical storm warning area, which covers nearly all of Deep South Texas. While sustained winds are expected to peak in the 20 to 25 mph range (perhaps 30 to 35 mph over the King Ranch), gusts above 40 mph in all areas have the potential to produce minor damage, as specified on the following slide.

None	<p>Threat (limited, or no, impact) - No discernable threat to life and property; winds to remain below tropical storm-force (39 mph), but windy conditions may still be present.</p> <p>Minimum Action - Evaluate personal and community disaster plans and ensure seasonal preparedness activities are complete.</p> <p>Potential Impact - Wind damage is not expected; impact should be negligible.</p>
Low	<p>Threat - An elevated threat to life and property; the likelihood for moderate tropical storm force sustained winds (39 to 57 mph) with gusts from 58 to 73 mph.</p> <p>Minimum Action - Prepare for minor to locally moderate wind damage.</p> <p>Potential Impact - Winds will be capable of causing damage to unanchored mobile homes, porches, carports, and awnings; some shingles blown from roofs. Large branches break off trees; some shallow-rooted and diseased trees blown down. Loose objects are easily blown about and become dangerous projectiles. Winds dangerous on bridges and causeways, especially for high profile vehicles. Scattered power outages, especially in areas with above ground lines.</p>

Definitions of “None” and “Low” potential impact for wind. Note the term “potential”. As certainty in the forecast increases, potential becomes “expected” impact. In this case, the impact of the Low area will come from gusts, particularly from western Hidalgo through southern Zapata County.

Timing

- Cameron/Willacy:
 - Core: Now until 6 to 8 PM; light to moderate rain through 10 PM
 - Back end bands: 10 PM through 2 AM Saturday.
 - Sunshine and light southeast winds by daybreak!
- Hidalgo/Brooks:
 - 5 to 7 PM until 7 to 10 PM; light to moderate rain after through midnight.
 - Back end bands: Midnight through 4 AM Saturday
 - Partly to mostly sunny and light southeast winds by daybreak!
- Rio Grande Plains:
 - Pre-bands: Through 6-7 PM
 - Core: 7 PM until Midnight
 - Back end bands, if any: Ending by sunrise or so Sat.

The Bottom Line

- **Rain:** #1 Threat. 2 to 4 inches, locally 6-7" in stronger core cells. Urban Flooding Likely, Isolated Life-Threatening Flooding in worst drainage areas if 7" falls there. **A bad evening commute in the Lower Valley!**
- **Wind:**
 - In core across the Lower Valley: Gusts could exceed 50 mph, causing minor damage to poorly built structures, some trees/limbs.
 - Near landfall point (Sarita – Falfurrias): Gusts could reach 40 mph.
 - Outside of the core: Gusts could reach 35 mph. "Sustained" winds 20 to 25 mph in all areas within core of rain; less across the Rio Grande Plains (southern Starr/Zapata)
- **Surge:** No threat. Waves will be a tempest in a teapot for 6 to 12 hours Laguna and Gulf. Tides up to 1 foot above predicted overnight
- **Rip Current:** Residual current could make Saturday *very dangerous* with sun coming out and more people back on the beach.
- **Tornado:** Isolated tornadoes possible late this afternoon Hidalgo Brooks westward.
- **River:** A slight rise but no flooding expected. Arroyo Colorado (Harlingen) may rise sharply but stay well below levee.

Rip Current is the biggest threat to people. Most important since SPI is at peak vacation season until early August.



Yes, sunshine at the beach on Saturday! But rip current risk will remain moderate to perhaps high. With many folks heading back out the shore for the weekend, danger will increase through the deception of relatively quiet waters by human observation from the beach. Break the Grip of the Rip and stay safe in the surf!

